



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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The construction of 361 vessels, to be added to the nation's depleted fishing fleet, was authorized during the last five months, Coordinator of Fisheries Harold L. Ickes announced today.

The new vessels will help offset the number normally lost, destroyed, or withdrawn from fishing for age or other reasons, but will come nowhere near replacing vessels which have been requisitioned by the armed forces, Coordinator Ickes declared.

More than half of the vessels authorized will be completed before the end of this year and may be able to get into active fishing in time to add to this year's fish supply. Most of the remainder are scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 1944.

Materials for the vessels are included in the amount allocated under the Controlled Materials Plan by WPB to the War Food Administration and are released for the construction of individual vessels on recommendation by the Coordinator of Fisheries.

The U.S. fishing fleet, in pre-war years, consisted of about 5,600 vessels of five net tons or over, and some 65,000 smaller boats. Requisitioning by the armed services has materially reduced the number of large and efficient vessels available for fishing.

Some vessels have been returned this year by both the Army and the Navy and still others have recently been removed from fishing by the Army. The number returned, however, has been larger than those taken away, and with the addition of newly constructed vessels, the fishing fleet should be larger at the end of 1943 than at the beginning of the year.

Fishing vessels authorized for construction as of  
September 30, 1943

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Area 1 - Washington and Oregon

29 purse seiners  
5 trawlers  
11 trollers  
3 troller and halibut  
12 sea skiffs  
8 miscellaneous (including 1 tuna clipper)  
68 (44 to be completed in 1943; 24 in 1944)

Area 2 - California

1 dragger  
25 purse seiners  
2 trawlers  
1 troller  
6 sea skiffs  
20 miscellaneous (including 14 tuna clippers)  
55 (24 in 1943; 31 in 1944)

Area 3 - Western Gulf of Mexico; Mexican border to and including Alabama

1 trawler  
77 shrimp trawlers  
1 miscellaneous  
79 (70 in 1943; 9 in 1944)

Area 5 - South Carolina, Georgia, East Coast of Florida

1 purse seiner  
1 trawler  
46 shrimp trawlers  
8 sea skiffs  
56 (47 in 1943; 9 in 1944)

Area 6 - Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina

2 draggers  
1 miscellaneous  
3 (2 in 1943; 1 in 1944)

Area 7 - Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island

22 draggers  
4 trawlers  
4 miscellaneous  
30 (14 for completion in 1943; 16 in 1944)

Area 8 - Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine

51 draggers  
10 trawlers  
1 miscellaneous  
62 (36 in 1943; 26 in 1944)

Area 9 - Great Lakes

2 miscellaneous, to be completed in

Area 11 - Alaska

1 trawler  
1 troller  
4 miscellaneous  
6 (to be completed in 1943)

Summary by types of vessels, all areas

76 draggers  
55 purse seiners  
24 trawlers  
123 shrimp trawlers  
13 trollers  
3 troller and halibut  
26 sea skiffs  
41 miscellaneous  
361

Summary by areas

Area 1 - 68 vessels  
Area 2 - 55 "  
Area 3 - 79 "  
Area 5 - 56 "  
Area 6 - 3 "  
Area 7 - 30 "  
Area 8 - 62 "  
Area 9 - 2 "  
Area 11- 6 "

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Total 361 vessels